

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COA-02 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 DLOS-07

STR-08 SS-20 SP-03 IO-14 XMB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 L-03 DRC-01

NSC-07 TRSE-00 GSA-02 /145 W
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R 242110Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7347

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN JOSE 2388

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EATD, EFIS, CS, MX, EFIN

SUBJECT: VISIT OF INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION
(IATTC) DIRECTOR JOSEPH

REF: SAN JOSE 2169

1. ON JUNE 20 IATTC DIRECTOR JOSEPH WAS IN SAN JOSE JOSE FROM MEETING WITH GENERAL SOMOZA IN NICARAGUA. HE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF STAY TO CALL ON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE HERNAN GARRON, AND DISCUSS POSSIBLE DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS ON COSTA RICAN ROLE IN IATTC CAUSED BY COSTA RICAN DISSATISFACTION WITH THE REMOVAL OF THE TUNA FLEET PROVISION FROM CURRENT IDB-COSTA RICAN FISHERIES LOAN. JOSEPH TOLD US GARRON INFORMED HIM THAT AS RESULT OF CHANGE IN IDB LOAN, COSTA RICA MIGHT FIND IT NECESSARY TO PULL OUT OF IATTC. HE SAID GARRON ALSO IMPLIED THAT GOCR MAY LODGE FORMAL COMPLAINT WITH USG ABOUT IS SUPPOSED ROLE IN DELETING TUNA SECTION FROM FISHERIES LOAN.

2. JOSEPH SAID HE EXPLAINED REASONING BEHIND IATTC AND POINT OUT THAT IF COSTA RICA WERE TO PULL OUT IT MIGHT VERY WELL HAVE
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CHAIN EFFECT OF ENCOURAGING OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO FOLLOW SUIT.

(NICARAGUA'S CURRENT STATUS IS ALREADY SHAKY.) HE SAID HE EXPLAINED THAT WITHOUT ALLOCATION SYSTEM FEECTED THROUGH IATTC ALL FISHING NATIONS WOULD SUFFER FROM INEVITABLE UNBOUNDED COMPETITION AND EVENTUAL DEPLETION OF TUNA HERD.

3. JOSEPH INFORMED EMBOFF THAT HE BELIEVES GARRON UNDERSTOOD ARGUMENTS AND THAT GARRON'S THREAT OF COSTA RICAN WITHDRAWAL FROM IATTC MAY HAVE BEEN MOSTLY FOR SHOW. COSTA RICA'S PRINCIPAL IATTC COMMISSIONER, AMBASSADOR CARDONA COOPER, WAS NOT IN TOWN ON THE 20TH SINCE HE IS IN CARACAS ATTENDING THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE. JOSEPH INDICATED THAT IF CURRENT SITUATION REMAINS TROUBLED, HE MAY RETURN IN SEPTEMBER TO TALK WITH CARDONA COOPER.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE IN THIS MATTER. IN THIS LIGHT, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO RECEIVE CABLE ANSWERING QUESTIONS RAISED IN REFTEL ASAP. OUR ASSESSMENT IS THAT CURRENT SITUATION IS QUITE SERIOUS AND IF NOT HANDLED PROMPTLY AND EFFECTIVELY GARRON'S THREAT TO WITHDRAW FROM IATTC--WHICH WE, AT PRESENT, ARE NOT INCLINED TO TAKE VERY SERIOULSY--MAY GAIN SUPPORT.
LANE

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Message Attributes

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